This Issue of the A. F. of L. Weekly News Service Consists of 2 Pages

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

I would we were all of one mind and one mind good.—Shakespeare.

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$800,000,000 More For Low-Cost Housing Favored by A. F. of L.

Enactment of Wagner Bill Would Provide Jobs For Many Thousands of the One Million Building and Construction Trades Workers Now Unemployed and Promote Business Recovery, Bates Tells Senate Committee.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C.—Unanswerable and fact-buttressed arguments in favor of the enactment of the bill introduced in the Senate by Senator Wagner of New York making $800,000,000 more available for loans to local housing authorities for the construction of low-rent housing and the promotion of slum clearance were presented by Harry C. Bates, chairman of the Housing Committee of the American Federation of Labor, in a statement before the subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Education of Labor, during the hearings on the Wagner bill.

Pointing out that the low-cost housing program developed by the United States Housing Authority through the $800,000,000 loans authorized by Congress in 1937 and 1938 make good housing available to small-income families who otherwise "would be compelled to live in slums," Mr. Bates also emphasized the fact that approximately one million workers in the building and construction industries are "totally unemployed and dependent on work relief for their livelihood." The Wagner bill increasing the loan authorization to $800,000,000, he said, would provide employment for thousands of these jobless workers.

"The overwhelming majority with which both houses of Congress approved the Wagner-Steagall Act of 1937, and the unanimous and enthusiastic approval of this law by all representative groups throughout the nation had a truly historic significance," Mr. Bates told the subcommittee.

"It proved beyond dispute that the American people became keenly aware that elimination of slums and rehousing of our lowest income families was the first and foremost step toward national economic rehabilitation and truly sound and stabilized recovery.

Housing Authority Achievements

"United behind the low-rent housing and slum clearance program embodied in the United States Housing Act were people representative of all classes, all groups and all political affiliations.

"What the United States Housing Authority has accomplished since November, 1937, the way in which it has succeeded in solving the widely diversified and complex problems in hundreds of communities, has enhanced the public conviction that low-rent housing through local initiative, plus Federal aid, is sound not only as a program but also as a practical operating force.

"Aware that the program has so well withstood the trying test of the first year of its operation and has enlisted even wider and more active support in every city and every community, the American Federation of Labor is proud to claim its share of responsibility in the initiation of this measure.

Originated by A. F. of L.

"For it was the American Federation of Labor's convention in 1935 that focused public attention on the urgent need to stamp out crime-breeding slums, to clean up the areas infested with dilapidation and disease, which blighted thousands of our communities and undermined the standard of living of millions of American families.

"It was in 1936 that a study initiated by the American Federation of Labor forcefully brought out the fact that we must build more than 14,000,000 dwelling units in ten years—twice as many as were constructed during the entire boom decade of 1920's—if we were to meet the most essential and most pressing need for good housing on the part of low-income families.

"The United States Housing Act became law a year later.

Immense Need For Low-Rent Housing

"We are more convinced today than ever before that this Act provided a good beginning and that the program it embodied is a sound program. But today we also realize more keenly than before that this beginning is pathetically small when measured against the

(Continued on Page 2)

GERMAN WORKERS ENSLAVED BY COMPULSORY EMPLOYMENT

Labor Conscripts Deprived of All Rights Under Hitler's Dictatorship; Penal Labor Camps Filled With Persons Who Oppose the Nazi Regime.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

The International Transport Workers Federation, whose headquarters are at Amsterdam, Holland, secures regularly from reliable sources information regarding the conditions of working men and women in Nazi Germany and releases the information from time to time in a publication called "Fascism."

The March issue of "Fascism" contains an article entitled "Lifelong Compulsory Employment in Germany," which reveals many hitherto secreted facts regarding the oppressive economic conditions imposed on German workers by the compulsory labor scheme promulgated early in 1938. The text of the article follows:

Compulsory Work Is Universal

"The regulations concerning compulsory employment in Germany have been made very much more severe.

"Since February 14, 1939, all inhabitants of the German Reich are liable to be assigned at any time by the labor exchange to compulsory employment; this applying not only to German subjects, as since July 1, 1938, but to foreigners and persons without nationality as well.

"Men and women, children and aged, may at any moment be assigned to compulsory employment for an indefinite period, nor merely for a limited period as hitherto. No one any longer has the right to claim a medical examination to establish whether he is fit for the work assigned to him.

Labor Conscripts Are Victimized

"The Nazi officials at the labor exchanges can assign people to any work they like without medical consultation. Regulations protecting workers, women and youth may be suspended for labor conscripts. Hitherto labor conscripts had a right to a hearing before being deported, and although the labor exchange was under no obligation to consider their objections, in some cases alleviations could be obtained. On the pretext that the timely supply of labor may not be prejudiced, the labor exchanges can now deport people without a hearing.

Wage Adjustments Denied

"The pledge solemnly given in June, 1938, by Goring's Four Year Plan Directory that labor conscripts would not suffer economic disadvantage has been cancelled.

"The pledge was not kept anyway, but now it is definitely stated: 'Compensation for hardship due to loss of wages is not given.'

"Railwaymen, civil servants and postal employees, transferred to the Sudeten area under the compulsory labor scheme are no longer entitled to wage adjustments. Adult skilled manual and non-manual workers may be engaged and paid in unskilled occupations.

Dependents Suffer

"The dependents of those condemned to compulsory labor only get a maintenance allowance if no work is available for them. Under the conditions obtaining in Germany today women may have their children taken from home, and labor exchanges may even, to save maintenance allowances, take the children of labor recruits from school and find employment for them. Against families politically or religiously suspect such provisions are applied ruthlessly.

No Jobs for Ex-labor Conscripts

"Those drafted to forced labor for a limited period must upon completion of their time return to their old employer if he wants them, but experience is that the employer is under no obligation to keep the jobs open. The labor exchanges have hitherto regularly acceded to applications of employers wishing to refuse re-employment of ex-labor conscripts.

Compulsory Work For Unlimited Periods

"But the worst feature of the stricter regime is the general introduction of

(Continued on Page 2)

Michigan Court Upholds Right of Martin's Auto Workers to Control Plymouth Local

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Detroit, Mich.—The Michigan Supreme Court handed down a decision sustaining the verdict of Circuit Judge DeWitt H. Merriam which gave control of the funds, properties, membership rolls and authority of Plymouth Local No. 51, International Union United Automobile Workers of America, headed by Homer Martin.

The sustaining decision once again conclusively demonstrates that the UAW, under the leadership of Mr. Martin, has acted legally and in the best interests of the membership.

The Circuit Court decision case was handed down in February by Judge Merriam after a revolt of the membership swept from power the CIO-Lamotte-Communist clique. The CIO-Communist group contested the legality of the election which swept them into oblivion, but lost their plea.

Pat McCartney, international executive board member in charge of Chrysler affairs, commented:

"This decision only proves further that we have acted legally and constructively for the welfare of the workers and for the union as a whole."

Labor Editor Woodmansee Re-Elected To Springfield Board of Education

Springfield, Ill. (AFLWNS).—Robert E. Woodmansee, editor and publisher of the Illinois Tradesman, headed the list in the recent election for members of the Springfield Board of Education, polling 12,587 votes.

Mr. Woodmansee carried the unanimous endorsement of the organized labor movement here. He is finishing his twenty-sixth year as a member of the school board, of which he is the president.

$100,000 More Asked For Senate Civil Liberties Committee Inquiry

Schwellenbach - Downey Resolution Would Provide Adequate Funds For the Investigation of Plot of Pacific Coast Employers Against Labor Unions.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C.—Senator Schwellenbach of Washington and Senator Downey of California introduced a resolution in the Senate providing a fund of $100,000 to enable the Senate Civil Liberties Committee to investigate the alleged illegal activities of organized employers and detective agencies in the States of Washington, Oregon and California designed to cripple and destroy labor organizations and abolish the civil rights of citizens. The committee consists of Senator La Follette of Wisconsin, chairman, and Senator Thomas of Utah.

The resolution was referred to the Committee to Audit and Control the Contingent Expenses of the Senate, from which a favorable report is expected.

The action for the appropriation of additional funds for the Senate Civil Liberties Committee was initiated recently by the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor in the following resolution which the Council unanimously adopted:

"Because of the unjust and unlawful persecution of officials of legitimate labor unions in the States of California, Oregon and Washington, where the enemies of labor are wilfully and deliberately plotting to destroy labor organizations, and because we believe that the civil rights of citizens of the United States have been trampled upon and ignored, and that labor officials have been persecuted and prosecuted and their liberties as American citizens destroyed, the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor does hereby resolve that the Executive officers of the American Federation of Labor request the Senate of the United States to appropriate sufficient money to the Sub-Committee of the Committee on Education and Labor, otherwise known as the Senate Civil Liberties Committee, for the purpose of continuing their investigation in the above-mentioned States to the end that the rights of workers and citizens of those States be protected against the unlawful acts of combinations of employers, detective agencies and other enemies of the workers."

The request of the A. F. of L. for additional funds for the Civil Liberties Committee was also approved by a number of other organizations.

Haggerty Is Re-Elected Head of Allied Printing Trades Association Board

Bookbinders President Lauded By Berry for Wide Extension of Union Label Firms.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C.—At the regular quarterly meeting here of the Board of Governors of the International Allied Printing Trades Association, representing approximately 200,000 skilled printing trades workers, the annual election of officers took place.

John B. Haggerty, president of the International Brotherhood of Bookbinders, was unanimously re-elected chairman of the Board of Governors; Leo J. Buckley, president of the International Stereotypers' and Electrotypers' Union, was elected vice-president, and Woodruff Randolph, secretary-treasurer.

President Haggerty succeeded Matthew Woll as chairman of the board ten years ago and has held this office continuously ever since.

Berry Praises Haggerty's Work

George L. Berry, president of the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' Union of North America, former United States Senator from Tennessee, and a member of the Board of Governors of the International Allied Printing Trades Association, addressed the board at the Washington meeting in regard to the achievements of Mr. Haggerty. His remarks, unanimously approved by the board, follow:

"No one who has had the opportunity of reading the correspondence and who has heard the reports made by President John B. Haggerty of this Association on the Great Atlantic and Pacific Food Stores Company, the Wm. Wrigley, Jr., Chewing Gum Company, Safeway Stores, and other equally important matters can hesitate in offering whole-hearted commendations and congratulations to President Haggerty.

"The board will recall that several years ago a proposal was offered by our organization to maintain a permanent agency for the International Allied Printing Trades Association to undertake to do the identical thing President Haggerty has done in these instances. That it is the practical and logical thing, President Haggerty's experience in the past few weeks amply demonstrates.

"The buyers of printing in the United States and, for that matter, the great majority of our population have become label-minded. The tremendous growth of interest and support in the union label has been amazing.

"This interest and support will increase. There will be no diminishment in the demand upon the part of the buyers of printing and other commodities for union label goods and union insignia.

Promotion of Union Label Urged

"It is my frank judgment that we should at some time in the very near future reconsider the proposition of financing a campaign for the promo-

(Continued on Page 2)

State Minimum-Wage Laws Benefit Over One Million Women Workers

Twenty-Five States, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico Now Have This Type of Protective Legislation, Women's Bureau Reports.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C.—The urgent need for both State and Federal minimum-wage laws is revealed in Bulletin 167 of the Women's Bureau of the United States Department of Labor, made public by Miss Mary Anderson, Director of the Bureau. The report, prepared by Florence P. Smith, gives a detailed compilation of "State Minimum-Wage Laws and Orders" as of December, 1938.

State laws usually cover a broad group of industries, as compared with the Federal Act which covers only interstate industries, the report shows.

Rates Are Higher Than Federal Minimum

Also, under the State laws, the wage rates are generally higher than the 25-cent minimum now in effect under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938. Nine in every ten of the wage rates set under State minimum-wage laws are higher than 25 cents an hour, and more than seven in every ten are at least 30 cents an hour, the rate which will go into effect under the Fair Labor Standards Act next October.

On the other hand, State minimum wage laws have been enacted by only 25 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, whereas the Federal Act covers the entire country.

Agricultural and Household Workers Excluded

Workers in agriculture and in household service are excluded from the Federal law. Though eight state laws permit coverage of domestic service, only one State, Wisconsin, applies its minimum wage law to household workers, and in no State is the law applied to agricultural workers. These occupations employed more than 2,000,000 women in the United States at the 1930 census.

In most minimum wage States, the bulletin shows, wage rates are fixed industry by industry after investigations of prevailing wages, cost of living in the State, and so forth.

A total of 108 different wage orders had been issued by December, 1938, in 19 States and the District of Columbia. A flat rate is provided in the laws of Arkansas, Nevada, South Dakota, and Puerto Rico.

No minimum wage rates had yet been ordered under the minimum wage laws of Kansas, Kentucky, and Louisiana. Court injunctions prevented enforcement of orders in Oklahoma and Utah.

Massachusetts Enacted First Law

The history of minimum wage laws in this country began only a quarter century ago, when Massachusetts enacted the first such law for women in 1912. Although several States passed laws in the following years, more than half of them became inactive after a Supreme Court decision in 1923 declared the District of Columbia law unconstitutional.

The reversal of this decision in March, 1937, led to an expansion of minimum wage laws in the States, followed by the enactment in 1938 of the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act. Today the States without minimum wage laws for women comprise the three important industrial States—Michigan, Indiana, and Missouri; a solid bloc of certain Middle Atlantic and Southern States, some of which have considerable manufacturing; and other largely agricultural States.

The States with minimum wage laws are: Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Utah, Washington and Wisconsin.

Municipal Employes of Jacksonville Join American Federation of Labor

Jacksonville, Fla. (AFLWNS).—Employes of the City Commission of Jacksonville and other city departments have been joining the American Federation of Labor in scores. Labor union officials are confident that before long all of the city employes will become full-fledged union members.

This splendid result is to a very large extent due to Fred M. Balz, chairman of the City Commission, who has cooperated one hundred per cent in the matter of organizing city employes.

AUTO WORKERS SEEK A. F. L. AFFILIATION

Green Tells Delegation Headed by Martin That the American Federation of Labor Is Willing to Restore Charter Under Which the Automobile Workers Union Formerly Operated As An A. F. of L. Affiliate.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C.—A definite move toward re-chartering the International Union United Automobile Workers of America as an American Federation of Labor affiliate was taken here on April 17 following a conference between officials of the American Federation of Labor and officials of the Automobile Workers Union.

Mr. Homer Martin, Mr. Elmer Davis and Mr. Jerry Aldred conferred with President William Green, Vice President Matthew Woll and Secretary-Treasurer Frank Morrison of the American Federation of Labor regarding re-affiliation of the International Union United Automobile Workers of America with the American Federation of Labor.

President Green officially informed the delegation that the American Federation of Labor would be glad to welcome the union back into the fold and would restore to it the same international charter under which it formerly operated under the banner of the A. F. of L. This would mean an autonomous industrial union. Mr. Martin and his associates stated this was acceptable to them and announced that they would recommend its acceptance to the Executive board of the International Union United Automobile Workers of America and to the membership of the union for ratification in a referendum vote.

At the conclusion of the conference, which was held in his office, President Green declared:

"The American Federation of Labor recognizes the union headed by Mr. Martin as the International Union United Automobile Workers of America. This organization under this name was chartered by the A. F. of L. and no other organization or group not affiliated with the A. F. of L. has

(Continued on Page 2)

METAL FRAME WORKERS JOIN HANDBAG UNION

Eight Hundred and Fifty Employes In New York City Vote to Affiliate With A. F. of L. Unit.

New York, N. Y. (AFLWNS).—The Frame and Metal Workers Union of New York City, with a membership of about 850, unanimously decided, through a referendum vote, to affiliate with the International Ladies' Handbag, Pocketbook and Novelty Workers Union.

This decision was reached by the local after conferences between Samuel Reinleib, president of the International, and Jacob Goldman, manager of the Frame and Metal Workers Union.

Union officials said that most of the members of the local are employed in making frames and locks for pocketbooks, ladies handbags, and various kinds of luggage.

Max Zaritsky, president of the United Hatters, Cap and Millinery Workers' International Union, and Morris Fienstone, secretary of the United Hebrew Trades, were instrumental in bringing about the affiliation of the metal frame workers with the Ladies' Handbag, Pocketbook and Novelty Workers Union. In the negotiations, Mr. Zaritsky acted as the representative of the American Federation of Labor.

FORTY-CENT WAGE URGED FOR U. S. SOAP CONTRACTS

Washington, D. C. (AFLWNS).—The Public Contracts Board of the Department of Labor recommended to Secretary of Labor Perkins that forty cents an hour be established as the prevailing minimum wage for employes in the soap manufacturing industry.

Under the Walsh-Healey Public Contracts Act the Secretary determines the minimum rate employers must pay in performing contracts for the Government.

In addition to the minimum wage the Act also prescribes the application of the eight-hour day and forty-hour week, and bans the employment of male persons under sixteen years of age, female persons under eighteen years of age, and convict labor.

145,699 ARE DISCHARGED FROM W. P. A. PROJECTS

Washington, D. C. (AFLWNS).—The distressing amount of suffering imposed on the unemployed and their families by the refusal of Congress to appropriate more than $100,000,000 for work relief for the rest of the fiscal year is revealed in the announcement by F. C. Harrington, W. P. A. Administrator, that relief rolls were cut 145,699 during the week ended April 12 to stay within the deficiency appropriation.

The cut reduced relief rolls to 2,756,254—well below the 2,800,000 figure which Mr. Harrington had set as the maximum under the new appropriation.

Unemployment Compensation Program Of A. F. L. Is Outlined by Matthew Woll

Recommendations to Senate Committee Include Retention of Employment Service in U. S. Department of Labor, Straight Pooled Compensation Fund, Minimum Rates, Shorter Waiting Period, and Federal Grants to States Unable to Maintain National Minimum Standards.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Senator James F. Byrnes of South Carolina, chairman of the Senate Special Committee to Investigate Unemployment and Relief, is the author of a bill (S. 1265) to establish a department of public works and amend certain portions of the Social Security Act, including the provisions for unemployment compensation. During the hearings held by the Special Committee on the Byrnes Bill, Matthew Woll, chairman of the American Federation of Labor Committee on Social Security, made a statement to the committee outlining the unemployment compensation policy of the A. F. of L. The text of Mr. Woll's statement is included in this article.

By MATTHEW WOLL

Chairman, American Federation of Labor Committee on Social Security

The purpose of unemployment compensation is to provide income during unemployment for workers accustomed to be self-supporting.

The function of unemployment compensation administration is to pay benefits in accordance with legal requirements.

The past ten years have demonstrated beyond question that the unemployed are, for the most part, without jobs for reasons quite outside their control, and have a right to income to tide them over the period of search for another job.

Self-supporting citizens should not be subjected to a means test so long as they have a chance to remain self-supporting.

The American Federation of Labor holds that unemployment compensation should not be handicapped by other and conflicting duties that would limit its ability to perform its sole function.

The American Federation of Labor is gratified that the recommendations of this committee are based on recognition of the need of uniformity in unemployment compensation legislation and coordination in its administration. That we believe is the immediate next step, building on what we have and moving definitely toward national uniformity.

Compensation Is Workers' Right

Unemployment compensation is a right of wage earners regularly seeking industrial employment to earn a living. The consequences of loss of job through no fault of theirs should not be borne entirely by those persons who are essential to industry but should be shared by the owners.

The fact of unemployment is established by inability to find work through the public employment office. The administration of unemployment compensation is, therefore, tied in with the job-finding agency to which the worker must report at required intervals.

Importance of Employment Service

The Employment Service reaches out into employment opportunities of all industries and all other types of employment and operates in the light of the full body of labor legislation affecting conditions and terms of employment. Its primary function is connecting workers with jobs for which they are fitted. Wage earners are in employment offices during their work years and are covered by unemployment compensation during the same period.

The American Federation of Labor holds that the Employment Service should be located in the Department of Labor, that division of the Executive branch of our Federal Government to which labor looks for understanding of its problems, its rights, and its welfare.

Ability to get suitable, satisfactory jobs conditions the whole of wage earners' lives. We cannot consent to the transfer of this vital function from the location where labor is provided representation in the President's Cabinet.

It is equally obvious that the administration of unemployment compensation can not be carried on efficiently unless there is coordination of unemployment compensation payments and the placement functions of the Employment Service so that both administrative fields are developed with domination to neither.

Unemployment Compensation Unit Should Be In Labor Department

Representatives of the American Federation of Labor were members of the Committee on Economic Security which recommended a draft bill placing old age benefits and unemployment compensation in the Department of Labor, and the Federation still believes that administration of benefits which are a matter of right should be in the Department of Labor.

The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor in its report to our 1938 convention recommended that the administration of unemployment compensation be trans-

(Continued on Page 2)

Mobilization of Unions to Secure Shorter Hours Urged by A. F. of L.

Thirty-Hour Week and Five-Hour Day Emphasized as Necessary to Provide Jobs for Millions of Unemployed.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C.—President William Green of the American Federation of Labor, in a communication sent to the presidents of the A. F. of L. National and International Unions, stressed the importance of the resolution adopted by the 1938 convention of the American Federation of Labor calling "upon all National and International Unions to exercise every effort possible to bring about a reduction in the number of hours and days worked per week."

"This action of the convention," he said, "was based upon the urgent need of finding and employing a remedy for unemployment."

In urging the practicability of the shorter work week, the Executive Council of the A. F. of L. in its report to the convention revealed that the U. S. Department of Labor reports showed that during 1937 "30 per cent of the membership in printing trades and 15 per cent in building trades were working less than a 40-hour week and 8 per cent of union bakers."

Decrease in Hours Since 1929

"The 1937 records show striking gains since pre-depression years," the Council continued. "Average hours of union building trades were shortened from forty-three per week in 1929 to thirty-nine in 1937, and in printing in the same period average union hours were reduced from 44.3 to 39.5. This means an average gain in leisure of four hours for building tradesmen and nearly five hours for printers. Union bakers also reduced their hours by nearly five per week in these eight years.

"The work week of forty hours or less is so prevalent in building and printing today that less than 4 per cent of union building tradesmen and less than 9 per cent of union printing tradesmen work over forty hours per week. In 1929, 75 per cent in building and almost 100 per cent in printing worked more than forty hours.

"Although Labor Department information is lacking to show work hours in other industries, the advances in these trades in the last eight years show what can be accomplished when effort is concentrated on achieving this necessary adjustment."

Shorter Work Week Only Remedy for Unemployment

In linking up the shorter hours referred to by the Executive Council with the problem of unemployment the 1938 A. F. of L. convention declared:

"Unemployment is not the problem of

(Continued on Page 2)

Members of A. F. of L. Textile Union In McComb Get $3,822 Lockout Benefits

Atlanta, Ga. (AFLWNS).—During the first week in March members of Local Textile Union No. 20675, McComb, Miss., were locked out.

This is a local union of the Southern Cotton Textile Federation, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

Elmer Estes, secretary-treasurer of the Southern Cotton Textile Federation, came to Atlanta for a conference with George L. Googe, Southern representative of the A. F. of L., and laid the case before him.

The McComb textile workers were locked out because they would not accept a wage reduction. The A. F. of L. unions have consistently resisted wage reductions, and the American Federation of Labor has supported its affiliated local unions in resisting wage cuts.

Mr. Googe approved payment of the regular weekly benefits of $7 to each member of the McComb local who is locked out, and upon his recommendation the payments have been made, as evidenced by the following telegram from William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor:

"George L. Googe, 358 Hurt Building, Atlanta, Ga.

"Check for $3,822.00, six weeks' lockout benefits for members of Local Union No. 20675, McComb, Miss., being forwarded to Ray Pine, financial secretary and bonded officer, today."

Each member of the local union locked out by the employer will receive $42, which is the regular $7 weekly benefits, for the period of six weeks.

Higher Wages, Shorter Hours, Held Only Real Remedy for Unemployment

President of American Federation of Labor Declares Employers' Stubborn Persistence in Imposing the Long Work Day and Work Week Is Responsible for Millions of Jobless.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

The continued refusal of those who own and control industry to recognize the necessity of reducing the hours of labor along with the substitution of mechanical processes for human beings in industry was cited by President William Green of the American Federation of Labor as the main reason for the persistence of the unemployed army now numbering many millions, in an address before the recent dinner meeting of Local No. 3 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in the Royal Windsor Palace, New York City.

The dinner was held to confer appropriate honors upon the members of the local for the performance of noble and praise-worthy service.

"High or low living standards among the wage earners of the nation are determined by the wage levels which the working people are able to establish," Mr. Green said. "From the economic point of view the prosperity of the nation is largely determined by the national income. If the national income is large enough to enable the consuming public to buy and use the goods which industry produces, unemployment will be reduced to a minimum and fairly prosperous conditions will prevail.

"The total amount of the national income represented in wages paid to wage earners plays an important part in the employment and business situations of the nation. If high wages are paid and buying power is high the volume of goods sold and consumed will be increased.

"These facts make it clear that the constant struggle of organized labor for higher wages is thoroughly justifiable, both from the economic and public welfare point of view.

"There are many factors which constantly play an ever-increasing part in the forces which are gradually but surely bringing about the establishment of a shorter work-day and shorter work-week.

Urges Equitable Division of Jobs

"More and more it becomes evident that the real remedy for unemployment will be found in the reduction of the number of days worked per week. When reduced to a simple mathematical basis it would seem an equitable division of the amount of work available is sound, particularly when it is considered as an economic problem.

"We cannot keep substituting mechanical processes and electric power for man service, and as a consequence displace millions of workers, without making adjustments in the working periods so that those displaced may be re-absorbed in private industry, unless we are prepared to maintain a large army of unemployed.

"Industrial management has stubbornly refused to make work period adjustments during the last three decades of our national life. Such adjustments were necessary to conform to the mechanical changes which have taken place.

Employers Deprive Millions of Jobs

"So many of the employing interests of the nation insist upon the maintenance of the long work-day and long work-week that, as a result of their stubborn refusal to face stern realities, unemployment has fluctuated between eight and fourteen million workers during the last ten year period. This situation has called for the expenditure of billions of dollars for relief purposes. Notwithstanding the expenditure of these huge sums of money we are still grappling with an acute unemployment problem.

"What is the remedy? Can it be found in the means which have been utilized, the methods followed and the economic policies applied during this distressing ten year period of unemployment?

"Labor still presses for public acceptance of the remedy which it has constantly advocated from the beginning. We are confident that an increase in the national income, which cannot be realized without an increase in wages paid and distributed among the masses of the people, and an adjustment of the daily and weekly work periods offer a real, practical remedy for unemployment."

$800,000,000 More For Low-Cost Housing Favored by A. F. of L.

(Continued from Page 1)

enormous need for low-rent housing with which we are still faced.

"The impetus given by the program already initiated in terms of reemployment and in terms of sustained business, activity the program has stimulated, has brought home to us the fact that we must unswervingly, though gradually, expand the program so that in time it would measure up to the full size of our national need.

Loans Cost the Government Nothing

"We are confident that this can be done without hesitation because the program is unique in one important respect. The loans made by the Federal Government for the construction of projects initiated and developed by local communities are, in a very real sense, investment loans.

"The bill before your committee proposes that authorization of such loans be increased by $800,000,000, doubling the initial authorization.

"This money to be authorized for loans toward a portion of the construction of low-rent housing projects involves no subsidy or other cost to the Government. Every cent of these loans will be repaid to the Federal Government. Thus, the loan authorization represents a completely self-liquidating capital investment in contrast to outright spending.

Grants-in-Aid to Subsidize Rents

"The United States Housing Authority program is unique in another respect. It makes good housing available to the families who, in the absence of such a program could not afford good housing and would be compelled to live in slums. Yet the program is so devised as to effectively prevent any competition of government-assisted housing with housing built by private enterprise. This is achieved by means of annual contributions paid by the United States Housing Authority to local public housing authorities as a partial subsidy necessary to bring rents in the housing projects down to a level which will make these new homes available to low-income families.

"At the present time the United States Housing Authority is authorized to spend $28,000,000 a year for these grants-in-aid. The amendment proposed by Senator Wagner increases the authorization for the annual contributions by $45,000,000. We believe that Senator Wagner is profoundly in the right when he says that:

"'This is a very small cost in terms of the economic and social benefits of slum clearance and low-rent housing, and in terms of the infinitely larger expenditures undertaken for other public purposes that are certainly no more important than decent housing. It indicates that slum clearance and low-rent housing constitute about the most economical method of stimulating re-employment, increasing industrial activity, and uniting business recovery with fundamental social improvement.'

One Million Mechanics Are Jobless

"Today there are more than 1,000,000 building and construction mechanics totally unemployed and dependent on work relief for their livelihood.

"The program authorized by Congress today will provide a total of 270,000,000 man-hours of work at the site and $257,000,000 which will be paid in wages to laborers employed at the site of construction.

"In addition, the present program will result in an even larger indirect employment in the production of building materials and will yield an even larger payroll to the workers in industries serving this new construction.

Work for 350,000 Visioned

"The proposed amendments will double these benefits to the building workers by providing 540,000,000 man-hours of employment at the site or two full year's work to 330,000 building mechanics and laborers. It will proportionately increase the employment, the purchasing power and the business activity in the industries which must service this construction with materials and equipment.

"The American Federation of Labor feels that at this time, when new signs of hesitation begin to appear in the trend of activity of our industry and trade, we can best stabilize the construction revival by the adoption of the proposed amendments. I am deeply convinced that your committee will fulfill an important public purpose by giving these amendments unanimous and unqualified endorsement."

Haggerty Is Re-Elected Head of Allied Printing Trades Association Board

(Continued from Page 1)

tion of the use of the label upon printed matter, and that we should jointly make our contributions in directing printing into union houses.

"This can be done. It has been done, and the magnificent example of President Haggerty ought to give us encouragement to do this obviously correct, practical and tremendously important thing.

"Of course, I understand President Haggerty has just been re-elected to the presidency of his International Union. Perhaps this board could not contract his services, but let it be said that the job requires a man of personality, of knowledge, of tact.

"John Haggerty possesses that and I wish to commend him publicly and without reservation for the splendid job he has conducted, and I express the hope he will continue the drive he has started.

"I do not think it would be very generous upon the part of all of us if we did not indicate here our very deep appreciation for the splendid response given to the workers of America by the Great Atlantic and Pacific Food Stores Company, the Wm. Wrigley, Jr., Chewing Gum Company, Safeway Stores, and others who have so generously received President Haggerty.

"These are great concerns. They have recognized the justice of our position. We in turn are obligated to generously reciprocate, and for my part I shall undertake to do that very thing."

Ladies Handbag Union Signs Up Luggage Firms

New York, N. Y. (AFLWNS).—Samuel Laderman, general secretary-treasurer of the International Ladies' Handbag, Pocketbook and Novelty Workers Union, an affiliate of the American Federation of Labor, announced the negotiation of closed union shop agreements with the Meyer Stark Luggage Company, of Detroit, Mich., and the Kleber Trunk Company of Pittsburgh, Pa., both of which are important luggage firms.

The Meyer Stark Company employs about 200 workers and the Kleber Trunk Company about 75 workers.

The most important provisions of the contracts are:

A closed union shop; 40-hour week with time and a half for overtime after 40 hours; full seniority rights are guaranteed; the union is to classify the workers as to seniority; there are to be increases in wages and upward revisions of piece work prices. There was established a permanent arbitration machinery which is to settle all disputes that may arise.

The Pittsburg contract establishes the check-off system and provides for one week's vacation with pay for those employed two years in the factory.

In Detroit right after the contract was signed, 50 workers of the Meyer Stark firm who were not members of the union before immediately joined the union and paid the initiation fee.

Americans Pay Three Billion Dollars Annually For Their Medical Care

Most of This Tremendous Burden Falls on Working Men and Women; United Effort to Prevent and Control Disease Visioned Possible and Practicable.

Editor's Note.—This is the second of a series of six articles on "The Wage Earner's Stake in Health," sponsored by the Educational Service of the Workers Education Bureau of America, 1440 Broadway, New York, N. Y. The articles have been carefully scrutinized by Dr. Michael M. Davis, Chairman of the Committee on Research in Medical Economics, for their accuracy.

By CONSTANCE KENT

Medical care costs the people of the United States approximately three billion dollars per year. This is a sizable sum. But is it enough to justify all the discussion about it? Pleasure cars and the gasoline to operate them cost us over twice as much annually as the bill for medical care. Yet nobody groans about the hardship which pleasure-car expense entails. If the failure to buy medical care carried no more penalty than the failure to buy a pleasure car, and if we could purchase medical care when we pleased and when it suited our incomes, we should have no excuse for calling "medical costs" a "problem" and seeking a way to solve it.

But are medical-care bills and auto bills comparable? To most persons the question sounds absurd. Nevertheless, it is often asked, or at least, implied. So perhaps we had better be prepared to answer this question or to have a set of counter-queries. We might ask, for example:

Postponing Medical Cars Is Dangerous

"Have you ever known a case where failure to buy a pleasure car was followed by the death penalty? Have you ever heard a man say: 'Well, Mary, maybe the Joneses can afford scarlet fever for their child, but we can't for Junior. Tell Doc to forget about that scarlet fever diagnosis, and treat the kid for colic'? Have you ever heard a woman observe thoughtfully: 'John, I believe now is a good time to turn in my old scar for a down-payment on another operation. Of course, if the hospital won't make me a good allowance, I'll wait till used-scar prices go up'?"

The truth is, you can't dictate to Illness. You can't, for instance, tell an attack of erysipelas to go away and come back after the wheat is harvested, or after the factory reopens, or after the furniture is paid for. You can, of course, put off calling a doctor until one of these desirable events takes place. By such restraint, you may save a bill, but you also run a risk that your family will have to pay the undertaker instead of the doctor.

There are some persons who are too careless, stupid or prejudiced to seek medical care at all. But most people want the comfort and assurance of a doctor's service when sickness strikes them or any one of their family. Most people do not want to suffer the pains and anxieties of sickness without relief, or to put their lives in jeopardy; but neither do they want to meet an uncertain and possibly large cost, to mortgage 10 per cent or 20 per cent or even 50 per cent of this or of next year's income—an income already committed to regular family expenditures. Neither do they want to accept charity!

Sickness Costs Cannot Be Foreseen

These are bitter "choices"—sometimes so bitter that they might be said to constitute no choice at all. Yet they are the choices which confront at one time or another the bulk of American families, self-respecting, self-supporting, but with no backlog of savings. And the fear of bills keeps many people from seeking medical care early in an illness, when generally speaking, most can be accomplied for cure or prevention.

The costs of sickness are generally unpredictable. They are also very uneven. For every thousand persons, on the average, about half will have no sickness during a year, and will have to spend nothing for medical care except perhaps a little for home remedies. About one-third of these thousand persons will have moderate sickness bills, and the remainder will have heavy bills. About 200 persons in the thousand will have to bear over 40 per cent of the total costs of medical care for the whole group for the year. And no person can tell in advance whether he or his family will fall in the lucky 500, the moderately lucky 300, or the unfortunate 200.

Illness Hits All Groups

Who is to blame for this predicament in which most of us at any time may, and too often actually do, find ourselves? Certainly not the doctor. Many a doctor gives more free care than is fair to his own family. Certainly not the person who is ill. The real culprit is the nature of Illness—its unpredictability and its complete indifference to income status. People with Ford incomes do not buy Cadillacs! But people with Ford incomes are stricken with costly illnesses as often as people who own Cadillacs; in fact, more often.

Is there no answer except deprivation, debt or charity? Yes: for as other articles in this series will describe, a good many physicians, many wage-earners, farmers, employers, cooperative associations and local, State, and national governments have undertaken plans to prevent and control disease, to reduce its financial burden, or to spread its costs so they will not fall with crushing weight upon some people every year.

University of Minnesota Labor Conference Discusses Many Problems Affecting Workers

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Minneapolis, Minn.—The labor conference to study and discuss the problems of the workers sponsored by the University of Minnesota, held here on April 17-20, brought together a number of well known representatives of labor, industry and the public, who exchanged views on the many questions affecting the wealth producers.

Herbert Heaton, Professor of Economic History at the University of Minnesota, delivered the keynote address at the opening of the conference, speaking on "The Economic Background of the Labor Movement." Elmo Roper, conductor of the Fortune Survey, discussed "What the Public Thinks of Labor and What Labor Thinks of Its Job."

Roger Baldwin, director of the American Civil Liberties Union, gave his views on "The Civil Rights of Labor." Noel Sargent, secretary of the National Association of Manufacturers, presented industry's viewpoint in his topic, "Labor—and the Employer's Rights."

"The American Farmer and the Labor Movement" was discussed by Allan Kline, vice president of the Iowa State Farm Federation.

Local farm leaders spoke on "Labor and the Government."

"Can Labor Be United?" occupied the conference during one of the evening sessions. George Lawson, an official of the Minnesota State Federation of Labor and a member of the University of Minnesota Board of Regents, presented the case for the A. F. of L. Mark Starr, educational director and assistant to David Dubinsky of the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union, gave the views of that organization and other independent unions.

The conference was closed with a convocation address on "The Political Future of the Labor Movement" by Peter H. Odegard, professor of political science at Amhurst University.

Full Use of Britain's Productive Capacity Would Put Idle to Work

Financial Editor of London Herald Says Credit Expansion, National Housing Program and Air Raid Shelter Construction Would Provide Employment for Two Million Jobless.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

London, England.—With the unemployed army in Great Britain now exceeding 2,000,000, the problem of work for the jobless has become acute and is calling for radical innovations by both the government and industry to provide jobs for these helpless cohorts of working men and women whose sole support is the inadequate sum they receive under the unemployment insurance law.

Pointing out that "we are now confronted with an unemployment problem much more serious than in 1937, when the total was down to 1,600,000," and that "we now have idle labor in almost all trades," Douglas Jay, financial editor of the Daily Herald, official paper of the British labor movement, reprimanded the do-nothing policy of the government and asserted that an expansion of production to full capacity mechanized by adequate credit and a broad program for the construction of housing and air-raid shelters would replace most of the 2,000,000 workers to the wage-earning group.

"One of the reasons why these people are still out of work," Mr. Jay declared in an article in the Herald, "is that Cabinet Ministers and industrialists have been going about for 18 months saying that there is no trade depression and nothing need be done."

Emphasizing his conviction that "if we are to clear up our employment scandal once and for all," as New Zealand and Sweden have done, "we must be bold," Mr. Jay continued:

"We must abandon once and for all the official philosophy which measures economic progress, not by the output and consumption of goods, but by the financial calculus of debts, deficits and surpluses.

Labor Does Not "Keep"

"We must teach our rulers that, whatever the profit and loss accounts say, the nation must be richer if it is employing its whole productive capacity than if it is employing 75 per cent of it as now. Labor, as Mr. J. M. Keynes has just pointed out, does not 'keep.' Either it is used now, or the things it might have produced are lost forever.

"All sorts of financial weapons are lying to hand, which, quite apart from specific work schemes affecting individual traders, would enable us to speed up the activity of our whole business machine.

"We need a bold expansion of credit by the Bank of England which would force down the cost of borrowing for both municipal and industrial undertakings. At a time when international crises upset investors every few weeks, this is more than ever necessary.

Housing and War Insurance

"We need a removal of the semi-official ban on long-term municipal issues, which has been in force since July. We need a reversal of the direct discouragement of municipal development schemes which the Government initiated last October.

"On top of this Sir John Simon should announce that defense borrowing will be partly effected by increasing the floating debt and by using the recent Bank of England gold 'profit,' and that in any case the gilt-edged price level is going to be substantially raised.

"There would be no difficulty about this if the Government declared its readiness to check exports of capital by British citizens.

"Again, we need a forward housing policy and a more concrete war risk insurance scheme for property, which would enable the building industry to recover from its present serious decline. We also need a comprehensive plan for new air-raid shelters, financed by Government borrowing."

HANDBAG WORKERS SIGN UP THREE FRISCO FIRMS

San Francisco, Calif. (AFLWNS).—Charles Bruno, president of Local Union No. 31, International Ladies' Handbag, Pocketbook and Novelty Workers Union, an affiliate of the American Federation of Labor, announced that the local had negotiated union agreements with the following firms: Degan Belting Company, Storek Leather Products Company, and Graton-Knight Company.

The contracts call for closed union shops; 40-hour 5-day week; time and a half for all overtime, with double pay for holidays; increases in wages with minimums ranging from 50 to 80c per hour; protection against unjust discharge or discrimination and the establishment of impartial machinery for the adjustment of all disputes.

The contracts were signed for two years.

AUTO WORKERS SEEK A. F. L. AFFILIATION

(Continued from Page 1)

the right to use this name or exercise any of its prerogatives.

"In restoring the charter to the International Union United Automobile Workers of America, the American Federation of Labor will recognize and fully concede the full autonomous authority of this organization in the administration of its own affairs.

"We will welcome the return of the automobile workers to our ranks and pledge them full support in their efforts to bring the benefits of unionization to the automobile industry.

"This is the second of the international unions which originally left the A. F. of L. and formed the C. I. O., to take steps to return to the Federation. (The first was the United Textile Workers of America.)

"As I have repeatedly stated in the last three years, the door to the American Federation of Labor stands open. We appeal to those who left us to return to the family of labor. There will be no penalties for past differences. No special conditions will be raised. Many of those who were beguiled by the false promises of dualism have become thoroughly disillusioned. To them we say: 'Come back. We are willing to let bygones be bygones.'

"Organized labor fully realizes today the consequences of dualism. It has again learned the lesson that it pays to rely on sound trade union principles. The dual movement is rapidly disintegrating. We sincerely urge those who are sick of it to return to our ranks and thus help restore unity in the American labor movement."

I. F. T. U. POSTPONES UNITED STATES MEETING

Serious Condition in European Affairs Necessitates Delay in Conference of International Labor Leaders Planned For Next Month.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C.—Because of the tense European situation the International Federation of Trade Unions has been forced to postpone the projected meeting of its Executive Board in this country next month, President William Green of the American Federation of Labor disclosed.

Arrangements were completed last winter for the I. F. T. U. Executive Board to hold meetings in New York and Washington during May. This was the first time the organization, which comprises representatives of the recognized labor movements in the democratic countries in Europe and America, had scheduled a meeting outside of Europe. The postponement was communicated to President Green in the following cablegram from Walter Schevenels, general secretary of the International Federation of Trade Unions:

"Owing to tense international situation with possibility war breaking out any day IFTU Executive Board most regretfully compelled postpone meeting in America in view of impossibility foremost trade unionists leaving Europe at present moment. Temporary postponement absolutely inevitable but hope hold meeting autumn. Letter follows."

NEW BADGE DESIGNED BY FLINT GLASS WORKERS

Washington, D. C. (AFLWNS).—J. M. Gillooly, president of the American Flint Glass Workers Union of North America, an affiliate of the Union Label Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor, has designed a unique badge for the coming convention of his International Union, a statement by the Department said.

On the bar of the badge are the words Cincinnati, Ohio, 1939.

A red, white and blue ribbon carries the initials of the A. F. G. W. U. N. A. and through the ribbon is fastened the Union Label of the Flint Glass Workers' Union in the form of a lapel button, which may be worn after the convention.

Over their emblem, on the button, are the words, "Buy American." It is unnecessary to state that the badge bears the Union Label.

DRIED FRUITS AND NUTS CARRY THE UNION LABEL

Washington, D. C. (AFLWNS).—Earl T. Baker, secretary-treasurer of the A. F. of L. Dried Fruit and Nut Packers Union No. 21084, of Santa Clara County, California, notified the Union Label Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor that the official union label of its organization now appears on packed dried fruit and nuts.

In speaking of the new products bearing the union label, Secretary-Treasurer I. M. Ornburn of the Label Trades Department, stated that union label-conscious consumers in every part of the country could create a great demand for the dried fruit and nuts bearing the union label by urging local retailers, and especially cooperative owned stores, to place orders for these products with Earl T. Baker, secretary-treasurer, Dried Fruit and Nut Packers Union No. 21084, 45 North First Street, San Jose, California.

Unemployment Compensation Program Of A. F. L. Is Outlined by Matthew Woll

(Continued from Page 1)

ferred to the Department and put under an Assistant Secretary of Labor who should also be charged with responsibility for the U. S. Employment Service.

Pooled Compensation Fund Urged

The American Federation of Labor believes that the sole function of unemployment compensation is to pay benefits to eligible unemployed persons. Stabilization of production, assured income plans, and similar undertakings commendable in themselves, should not be confused with the problem of providing incomes for those who lose their jobs during the period of finding another.

Unemployment is a permanent problem. We can however take care of unemployed workers during the periods of adjustment. All industries have periods of expansion and decline. Only by pooling the risks of all industries can we meet the costs of unemployment compensation most economically and most surely.

Labor proposes, therefore, that the first requirement for approval of State law by the Social Security Board be a straight pooled fund. By eliminating the accounting complexities of employers' reserves or industry reserves, charging back benefit payments to individual employers' accounts for so-called "merit rating," a big administrative complexity and cost is also eliminated.

An unmodified pooled fund will give economy in administration and payment of benefits, the maximum security to workers, and the maximum service at the lowest costs to employers.

One Week Waiting Period Asked

We heartily endorse the proposal that the waiting period be one week. This should make the period without income less than three weeks. Any longer period is too heavy a drain on the savings and resources of wage earners and defeats the purpose of unemployment compensation. The benefit itself we believe should be related to full-time weekly earnings to which workers gear their standards of living.

Minimum Rates Recommended

The Federation has recommended not less than 50 per cent of full-time weekly earnings with a minimum of $7 for industrial States and $5 in others. While we would accept $15 as a Federal maximum requirement, we recommend a higher maximum for such States as can pay more.

Fixing such minimum and maximum standards permits the 50 per cent ratio to apply only to wages between $10 and $30. Even in this range the ratio has been modified by formulas as a substitute for finding the full time weekly wage.

While practically every regularly employed person has a very definite idea of what his full-time weekly wage is, and employers as a matter of business practice estimate such a wage on each job, administration of unemployment compensation has generally reduced full-time weekly earnings to averages of earnings.

The Federation has such faith in collective bargaining that we believe this additional point could be determined by employers and employes jointly and thus simplify the basis for unemployment compensation.

Benefits Paid by Unions

Many unions have for years been paying unemployment benefits to their members and still supplement payments from unemployment compensation legislation. My own union, the International Photo-Engravers, with a membership of 10,000, paid $580,209.24 to its unemployed members during the year 1937. Other unions perform similar services. We believe it would be wise to have this union experience represented in the administration of unemployment compensatiton.

Uniform Benefit Periods Urged

The Federation endorses the proposal that the period for which benefits shall be paid should be uniform for all eligible persons. The terms of eligibility should be such as to eliminate casual workers and cover only those regularly in the labor market. A uniform period will simplify administration and reduce costs.

Since unemployment compensation is to be paid only to persons accustomed to work, eligibility requirements must be based on weeks of employment in an administrative period. If thirteen weeks is the benefit period, and the benefit 50 per cent of full time weekly earnings, the proposed requirement that the person eligible must have worked within each of 26 weeks in the year preceding his claim for benefit is reasonable.

Importance of Defining Work Week

The Federation hopes that a way will be found to define a work week so as to substitute a definite number of weeks instead of the standard "worked in each of 26 weeks."

We would prefer a simple standard of weeks of work which with a separation report would provide the administration with a basis for quick decision. However, we recognize the trend has been in the direction of quarterly reporting, with the requirement that applicant must have earned a definite sum as evidence of benefits contributed in his behalf. The minimum requirement of $150 or 30 times the minimum benefit rate is reasonable to assure restriction of benefits to those regularly employed.

Federal Grants to States Sought

The Federation is in favor of the principle of making grants from Federal funds for public assistance in proportion to the inability of the State to maintain minimum national standards. Average per capita income in some States is less than half the national average per capita and under the corporate method of financing, income from production is drawn off by the great financial centers. Only the Federal Government can return funds for the handicapped to those regions supplying basic national needs. The method of variable grants recognizes this fact.

Classification of those needing public assistance into categories that indicate the cause of dependency, will help us meet their problems by setting up permanent agencies with adequate appropriations. We need to separate permanent from emergency needs.

Merit System Recommended

We emphatically endorse the proposal to apply the merit system in the establishment and maintenance of all the administrative personnel, but we insist with equal emphasis that administrative experience in the union should be considered as equal to other administrative work and that all administering laws involving the right of workers shall have knowledge and understanding of the problems and desires of wage earners.

The Federation urges amendment of the Social Security Act along the proposed S. 1265. We urge the inclusion of an additional Federal standard as condition for approval for Federal funds—a pooled fund.

In addition the Federation recommends an Advisory Committee similar to the Advisory Committee created by the Senate in the last Congress to study old age benefits, such committee to be charged with consideration of experience under unemployment compensation together with exploring the possibilities of a Federal Unemployment Compensation Law and making recommendations to Congress.

Mobilization of Unions to Secure Shorter Hours Urged by A. F. of L.

(Continued from Page 1)

the unemployed worker alone, it is the problem of every man regardless of his station in life. Government spending and the payment of unemployment benefits from whatever source are but measures of temporary relief.

"The fact that members of trade unions were in a position of advantage as compared with employes in industry generally during the period of declining employment is no justification for us to pause even for a moment in driving forward our efforts for an effective and complete solution of this serious problem.

"There is but one solution for the abolition of unemployment and that is a more equal distribution of available employment through the reduction of the work week from the present prevailing standards to lower levels, thereby creating employment for the greater number.

"It is not alone the purpose of organized labor in seeking a reduction in the number of working hours in order to secure more leisure hours for the employed workers but to provide in a measure working hours for the unemployed.

"Confident that the lessening of hours for those employed will create employment for the millions of unemployed, organized labor must and will continue to strive for the establishment of the 30-hour 5-day week, the only solution to this great problem, and thereby restore prosperity and contentment to all of the people of our nation."

Thirty-Hour Week Is "Paramount Objective"

To achieve the shorter hour program for working men and women without reducing their earnings, the convention reaffirmed its endorsement of the five-day week and the six-hour work day "without any reduction in the hourly, daily or weekly pay," and further recommended "that this purpose be declared the paramount objective of this convention, and that the officers of the American Federation of Labor be instructed to spare no effort to insure steady and certain progress toward the attainment of this great objective, and of enlisting the support of all the people in its behalf."

GERMAN WORKERS ENSLAVED BY COMPULSORY EMPLOYMENT

(Continued from Page 1)

compulsory employment for unlimited periods.

"In practice condemnation to compulsory labor for unlimited periods has been a fact in Germany since the beginning of the Nazi regime.

"Since March, 1933, tens of thousands of Germans have worked as labor convicts in the concentration camps. Since the summer of 1933 thousands have been building barracks and military works, in the eastern and northwestern parts of Germany especially. Most of them have been in the labor camps continuously except for short periods of leave.

Life Sentences to Penal Labor Camps

"There are so-called penal labor camps, the occupants of which have been definitely told that they will probably never get any other employment, and hundreds hostile to the regime who under orders of the Gestapo may only seek employment in certain localities.

"But compulsory employment for an unlimited period was hitherto reserved for the low-paid classes and opponents of the regime. Now non-politicals, even Nazi partisans, small business men and salaried servants are liable to unlimited compulsory employment. They may be ordered to accept employment in another occupation at considerably lower wages.

"Again it is expressly stated that there is no claim to a wage adjustment. No wage or salary earner, no public servant or craftsman, no business man or professional man has a right, if assigned to compulsory employment away from his place of residence, to any compensation for the consequent economic hardship to himself or his dependents.

Labor Enslavement Is Complete

"The Nazi ministers still maintain that the compulsory employment scheme will only be exceptionally applied. But Nazi papers already calmly write that 'the course of events will probably necessitate general application.' (Kolnische Zeitung, 16 February). In other words, it is probable that the majority of the Germans will have to work under a scheme of compulsory employment. The transition from collective bargaining to labour enslavement has reached its completion in Germany."